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EXAMINER	
LAROSE, COLIN M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/875,855	Applicant(s) OSA, KINYA	
	Examiner Colin M. LaRose	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 October 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4 and 6-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4 and 6-12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Arguments and Amendments

1. Applicant's amendments and arguments filed 4 October 2004, have been entered and made of record.

Response to Amendments and Arguments

2. Applicant has amended independent claims 1-4 and 8-11 to further define the invention. The present amendment to claim 1 appears to overcome the applied prior at (U.S. Patent 6,266,450 by Yip et al.), as Yip does not seem to disclose transferring the claimed data groups "from a first memory to a second memory for coding by a bit-plane coding processor" and then detecting, as claimed, wherein "the detecting ... is performed while transferring the data group and completed before completion of the transfer." Corresponding changes have also been made to claims 2-4 and 8-11.

Australian Patent Publication 199957151 A1 by Yip et al. is relied upon below to cure the above deficiencies of the '450 reference. Also, the '450 reference has been replaced by the corresponding European Patent Application 0905978 A2 by Yip et al. since the '450 reference is subject to exclusion under 35 USC § 103(c).

3. In view of the amendment to claims 4 and 11, the previous claim objection thereto have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application 0905978 A2 by Yip et al. ("Yip EU") in view of Australian Patent Publication 199957151 A1 by Yip et al. ("Yip AU").

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Yip EU discloses a circuit and method (figure 3) for transferring a data group (i.e. coefficients of image data) having data represented by plural bits to a bit-plane coding processor (i.e. coding routine 314), comprising:

detection means for detecting a maximum value in the data group as a transfer object (306 and ¶ 32: the largest coefficient in the data group is identified); and

specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing the maximum value detected by said detection means (306 and ¶ 32: the MSB bit position (i.e. the highest significant bitplane) of the maximum detected value is specified as "maxBitNumber"), and outputting a code representing the bit position specified by said specifying means to said bit-plane coding processor (figure 3: "maxBitNumber" is output to the coder 314),

wherein a bit in a position higher than the highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from coding by said bit-plane coding processor (Figure 4 shows the "Code region" routine of figure 3. As can be seen in figure 4, coding begins with the

"maxBitNumber" bitplane and continues until the "minBitNumber" bitplane is reached. As a result, those bits in the bitplanes higher than the "maxBitNumber" bitplane are omitted from processing.)

Yip EU does not appear to disclose transferring "from a first memory to a second memory for coding." Cf. figure 1 of Yip EU, which shows coding (120) an image that has been transformed (110) but does not show transfer of the coefficients to or from memory.

Yip EU also does not disclose detecting "while transferring the data group and completed before completion of the transfer." Cf. figure 1 of Yip EU, which shows that coefficients are transferred to the coding block (120), where the detecting (306) and coding (314) occur, but there is no transfer between memories shown.

Yip AU discloses a bit-plane encoding system (figure 6) that is very similar to that of Yip EU. In particular, Yip AU discloses receiving coefficients into a first memory (612), and then converting the coefficients into bitplanes (606) and building a tree (608-0 – 608-15), which detects significant bitplanes in a quadtree fashion (see figure 7). The bitplane and tree information are then stored in a second memory (614,616, and 619-0 – 618-15) for output to the encoder (610). While the data is being transferred from the first memory (612) to the second memory (614,616, and 619-0 – 618-15), the bitplane analysis (606 and 608-0 – 608-15) is executed.

Thus, Yip AU teaches receiving wavelet coefficients in a memory (612), performing a bit-plane analysis on the coefficients (606 and 608-0 – 608-15), storing the results of the analysis

in memory (614,616, and 619-0 – 618-15), and then outputting the results to a bit-plane encoder (610). This process is similar to that of Yip EU, wherein wavelet coefficients are transferred to a processor (120) where bit-plane analysis is performed (306), and the coefficients are then encoded on the basis of the results of the analysis (314). The primary difference is that Yip AU includes two memories for facilitating the transfer of data to the encoder.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Yip EU by Yip AU to achieve the claimed invention by transferring the data group from a first memory to a second memory and detecting a maximum value in the data group while transferring the data group, as claimed, since Yip AU teaches that when wavelet-transformed image data is to be encoded on the basis of significant bit planes, it was advantageous and conventional to include two memories, as claimed, in order to facilitate the transfer of data to the encoder. In addition, Yip AU shows that it was conventional to perform a bitplane analysis to detect significant bitplanes while transferring the data from the first to the second memory (see figure 6).

Regarding claims 6 and 12, Yip EU discloses including any known memory circuit, which includes a DMA circuit (¶ 142).

Regarding claim 7, Yip EU discloses the data group includes transform coefficients generated by transform coding on the pixel data (304, figure 3).

Regarding claims 2 and 9, Yip EU discloses a circuit and method (figure 3) for transferring a data group (i.e. coefficients of image data) having data represented by plural bits to a bitplane coding processor (i.e. coding routine 314), comprising:

calculation means for performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred (306 and ¶ 32: the largest coefficient in the data group is identified; figure 29, and ¶ 123: the "bit-plane unit" in figure 29 performs a logical OR operation on all the bits in a current bit plane and the previous bit planes in order to generate "data valid bits,"); and

specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing a result of the logical OR calculation by said calculation means (306 and ¶ 32: the MSB bit position (i.e. the highest significant bitplane) of the maximum detected value is specified as "maxBitNumber"; and ¶ 126: the data valid bits are used for determining the most significant data bit) and outputting a code representing the bit position specified by said specifying means to said bit-plane coding processor (figure 3: "maxBitNumber" is output to the coder 314),

wherein a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from coding by said bitplane coding processor (Figure 4 shows the "Code region" routine of figure 3. As can be seen in figure 4, coding begins with the "maxBitNumber" bitplane and continues until the "minBitNumber" bitplane is reached. As a result, those bits in the bitplanes higher than the "maxBitNumber" bitplane are omitted from processing.).

Yip EU is deficient for claims 2 and 9 for the same reasons as recited above for claims 1 and 8; and Yip AU is relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Yip EU for claims 2 and 9. Please refer to the explanation of the combination for claims 1 and 8 above.

Regarding claims 3 and 10, Yip EU discloses a circuit and method (figure 3) for transferring a data group (i.e. bitplanes of coefficients) having data represented by plural bits fro coding by a bitplane coding processor (i.e. coding routine 314), comprising:

calculation means for performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred (figure 29, and ¶ 123: the "bit-plane unit" in figure 29 performs a logical OR operation on all the bits in a current bit plane and the previous bit planes in order to generate "data valid bits,"); and

specifying means for specifying a non-zero lowest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation by said calculation means (see ¶ 33: a non-zero lowest-order bit position, corresponding to the "minBitNumber" bitplane, is designated according to the desired image quality; and Yip's lowest-order bit position is "among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation" – since all bits in bitplanes lower than the maxBitNumber bitplane are used to construct the results of the logical OR calculation in ¶ 123, the designated lowest-order bitplane ("minBitNumber") comprises bits used to construct the results of the logical OR calculation) and outputting a code representing the bit position specified by said specifying means to said bit-plane coding processor (figure 3: "maxBitNumber" is output to the coder 314),

wherein a bit in a position lower than said lowest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from coding by said bitplane coding processor (Figure 4 shows the "Code region" routine of figure 3. As can be seen in figure 4, coding begins with the "maxBitNumber" bitplane and continues until the "minBitNumber" bitplane is reached. As a result, those bits in the bitplanes lower than the "minBitNumber" plane are omitted from processing.).

Yip EU is deficient for claims 3 and 10 for the same reasons as recited above for claims 1 and 8; and Yip AU is relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Yip EU for claims 3 and 10. Please refer to the explanation of the combination for claims 1 and 8 above.

Regarding claims 4 and 11, it is noted that claim 4 is a combination of claims 2 and 3, and claim 11 is a combination of claims 9 and 10, the corresponding features of claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 being disclosed by Yip EU as recited above.

Yip EU is deficient for claims 4 and 11 for the same reasons as recited above for claims 1 and 8; and Yip AU is relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Yip EU for claims 4 and 11. Please refer to the explanation of the combination for claims 1 and 8 above.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Colin M. LaRose whose telephone number is (571) 272-7423. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached on (571) 272-7414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

CML
Group Art Unit 2623
9 April 2005

VIKKRAM BALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER